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About 600 words

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All That Was Left

Transcript from an audio piece.

By

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PART 1

INTRODUCTION

(voice-over)

0:00 - 0:10 [short musical introduction]

0:10 - 2:30 [uninterrupted reading]

All that was left was our consciousness.

I often wonder

What are the evolutionary advantages of having a body anyway?

What is a human body? What defines humanity?

I believe to be Human is to strive for freedom.

Because once we were apes, so we stood upright to free our hands. Because this newfound freedom allowed us to build tools.

Because with these tools in our hands, we built machines.

[pause]

And with these machines, we freed ourselves from labor.

It was a natural transition when eventually;
our corporeal abilities started to deteriorate.

As our bodies decayed our brains kept growing, amassing
invaluable data-bases.

We had to find a way to openly access, and store this
knowledge.

It became our most important desire when we realized our
bodies would disappear; [pause] alongside our home planet.

By the year 2020, our brains already had tripled in size.

Today our brains are what's left of us.

Or rather our brains are what make us Humans.

This is both our legacy and our means of survival.

Our consciousness has been transferred into rectangle-shaped
hard drives.

Each one represents a human life, remotely connected to its
loved ones.

We are without limbs, which evolution rendered obsolete.

We are forever.

More akin to obsidian rocks, made from cooled magma than
Vitruvian figures.

We grow everlastingly yet we are set in stone.

*** Background music starts ***

2:30 - 2:40 [musical interlude]

2:40 - 3:25 [uninterrupted text]

We are [pause] forever thinking, forever beings.

We don't touch. We don't taste. We don't smell. We don't
hear. We don't see.

At least not the way we once did.

While these abilities are technically lost; [pause] we still
stimulate our neural pathways to artificially retain our sensory
processing.

A body is a shell. A container for our consciousness.

We built impossible worlds in our collective mind and have
settled there.

3:25 - 3:50 [musical interlude with atmospherical sounds]

3:50 - 5:45 [uninterrupted text]

PART 2

THE HUMAN BODY

FEMALE VOICE

(voice-over)

I remember hearing the birds, outside the window of my childhood bedroom.

I remember playing in my parents' garden with my brothers, the sound of marbles rolling on the asphalt.

I remember slicing my hand while picking up broken glass.

The sting of freshly squeezed lemon juice on the cuts, its summery perfume and bitter aroma.

[pause]

This monolith is my body, and it's strange to think my ancestors might not have recognized it as such.

What's even stranger is I see them; who are mainly human in shape, as my ancestors.

If the artificial is man-made; does that not make my kind the ultimate Humans over them?

If they are homo sapiens; we are ultra sapiens.

If they could explore our cities they would see cemeteries.

And in a way, they would be right.

Each monolith is a shell for one of us.

A monument to a Human life as we are taught.

"Human life in its latest evolutionary form."

Once we were apes who rose upright, today we are cemented in this uprightness.

A body is just a vessel for what a human is; [pause] and a limitation to what it can be.

We are [pause] forever thinking, forever beings.

5:45 - 6:00 [musical outro with the last sentence echoed]

I exist, along with others.

(almost echoed) I exist, along with others.

(echoed) I exist along with others.

Text composed within the seminar "Technobodies," instructed by Patricia Ribault, featured in a podcast on Radiobal.fr.